

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 63, ISSUE NO. 8

MAY 4, 2005

IT'S YOUR NEWSPAPER

## Election Meeting Derailed

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The announcement of the new Associated Student Union president has been delayed for the second time in two weeks, and Valley College students will have to wait a little longer for some answers.

Last week's presidential election results were postponed due to complaints filed by presidential candidates against their opponents. Some complaints included claims that candidates and their supporters violated election rules by campaigning in restricted areas during the voting process and that another candidate posted too many campaign signs on campus.

The complaints will send ASU adviser Sherri Rodriguez and other members of the election committee to a closed-door meeting to sort through the mess. Rodriguez denied the Valley Star's request for the written complaints. Rodriguez also said the meeting will be closed to the press and to Valley students, citing ASU election rules, an apparent violation of the Ralph Brown Act. The Brown Act states that topics for closed session meetings include real property negotiations, pending litigation, personnel and threat to public safety and labor negotiations.

The closed-door meeting  
 see Election page 5

## Valley Breaks Prop. A Ground

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With last week's groundbreaking of the campus' first new building since 1975, Valley College's massive renovation project to give the campus an extreme makeover is under way.

"Everyone is looking forward to the buildings. They're working in old building that were designed in the 1940s," said Tom Lopez, Valley's director of college facilities, at last week's commencement for the 28,000-square-foot Maintenance and Operations / Sheriff's Station.

The \$6.6 million building will house shipping and receiving, Sheriff's personnel and operations and other offices, and should be completed by early 2006.

"It's a major upgrade; it will bring the departments closer," said Valley's Vice President of Administrative Services Tom

see Props page 2

## Villaraigosa Rally at Valley College Draws Democratic Heavy Hitters



GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

**GRIP OF SUPPORT** — Sen. John Kerry supports Los Angeles Mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa during a rally at Valley College Saturday.

■ More than a dozen prominent figures in the Democratic Party came out in support of Los Angeles Mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa.

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS  
 AND MAGGIE OWNBEY  
 EDITORS

A rally for mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa at Valley College Saturday brought out a slew of major political figures/stars including council member and former Police Chief Bernard Parks, State Senator Richard Alarcon and State Senator and former presidential candidate John Kerry.

"He's a stand-up guy, he'll do a great job. He'll address a number of challenging issues," Kerry told The Valley Star. "We need strong leadership."

Villaraigosa spoke to a crowd of more than 500 about the importance of expanding the public transportation system, shifting to see Rally page 7

## Monarchs Playoff Bound

■ Baseball team goes from rags to riches and try to repeat season success in playoffs for the first time in years.

BY SAM HAHN  
 STAFF WRITER

AZUSA- California recorded more rain that Oregon this year, the Lakers missed the post-season for the first time in 11 years and Valley College baseball is headed to the playoffs.

Like California residents and Lakers' fans, the Monarchs find themselves in unfamiliar territory.

"After having such a bad year last season, it feels real

good to finally be in the playoffs," said sophomore pitcher Jorge Olmedo, who was one of the three players returning from last season. "Words can't express how I feel right now. We couldn't get it done last season, and it's awesome how far we've come."

The Monarchs record over the previous four seasons is 5-98. This year, Valley's record is 22-13 overall and 16-6 in conference. The team currently sits in first place in the Western State Conference and is ranked 10th

in Southern California.

Sweeping the Citrus Owls 12-1 Thursday, and 7-1 on Saturday, the Monarchs rebounded from a 16-3 thumping from the Pierce Brahmas Tuesday.

"Today game was pretty big and played into our goal coming into conference [play]," said head coach Dave Mallas. "We didn't want to lose a [season] series to anybody, and today's win allowed us to split with Citrus."

see Monarchs page 7



SCOTT MITCHELL / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

**SLIDING BY** — Monarch left fielder DJ Lewis avoids the tag as he dives full-speed into home during Saturday's 7-1 Valley victory at Citrus College under summer-like weather.

## Holocaust Survivor to Speak at Monarch Hall

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY  
 VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Si Frumkin was born on November 5, 1930, but he has another day he celebrates. It's the day when he was 14 years old and the U.S. Army liberated him from Aaufering, the sub-camp of Dachau the Nazi concentration camp where he was a prisoner.

"I always celebrate April 27, 1945 as my second birthday," said Frumkin. "The most beautiful sight I've ever seen—those tanks with white American stars—you then knew you were saved from death."

The Lithuanian-born Frumkin, 74, will tell his story of being a normal kid in abnormal times on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in Monarch Hall. It's part of Holocaust Remembrance Day — in Hebrew, Yom Hashoah, or "Day of the Holocaust" — for remembering one of history's great human tragedies.

"The population of survivors is aging," said Rick Lupert, assistant director of Hillel at Pierce and Valley colleges, sponsors of the program. "One day there will be no more witnesses who were there."

The outspoken Frumkin will tell of his experiences as a holocaust survivor and will more than likely start off by getting a few things "off his chest" according to Lupert.

"Not so much [is different] that happened 65 years ago," Frumkin said about the situation in the Sudan and ten-years-ago in Rwanda. "It's what's happening now, the United Nations is [just] sitting around talking."

Frumkin, founder and director of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, took part in a settlement in 1998 from Swiss Banks that profited by keeping accounts open and accepting gold taken from Jews during the holocaust, according to CNN.com.

"The Swiss banks gave a blanket amount between survivors, it's still an on going process," said Frumkin.

Today he lectures and leads tours at the Museum of Tolerance.

For more information contact: Hillel at Pierce and Valley Colleges at (818) 887-5901

Holocaust Remembrance Day, Thursday May 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

**SPRING SEMESTER'S LAST ASU CLUB DAY TODAY**

**9 A.M. TO 2 P.M. MONARCH SQUARE**



## NEWS REEL

## Vietnam War:

Sunday marked the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam war's end. Last week, the Pentagon identified the remains of four American servicemen. To date, 1,835 are still missing.

## South Korea:

A top military official informed the Senate that North Korea does have nuclear capabilities. The untested Taepo Dong 2 is believed to have a range as far as the Western U.S.

## NASA:

NASA delays Discovery's launch, possibly until the end of July. Items under inspection include fuel tank sensors and fuel tank debris (ice), which may break off and hit the shuttle. Fuel tank debris is blamed for the disintegration of shuttle Columbia in 2003, NASA's last attempt at space travel.

## CAMPUS EYE

## Cinco de Mayo Celebration:

Wednesday, May 4 at Monarch Square from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Postpartum Depression:

The infant and toddler institute presents a workshop on Friday, May, 6.

## Caregiver Literacy

## Workshop:

Saturday, May 7 from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Math Science 114. It is free admission and refreshments.

## TAP Luncheon:

Tuesday, May 10 from 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. in Monarch Hall (by invite only).

## Early Detection of Autism in

## Infants and Toddlers:

Wednesday, May, 11 at 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in Math Science 109.

## "Why I Write Books For

## Children":

Saturday, May 14 at 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

## Patrons Scholarship Night:

Thursday, May, 19 from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

THINK  
TRANSFER

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT THE CAREER  
TRANSFER CENTER AT  
(818) 947-2646

## Workshops:

Career Planning Workshops in  
Adm. 126 Thursdays at 1 p.m.

## Special Events:

Bus Trip to UC Santa Barbara  
Friday, May 6, 2005 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Come to the Career/Transfer  
Center for info and sign-up.

## TAP/Transfer Reception

Tuesday, May 10, 2005 in  
Monarch Hall.

## Universtly Representatives:

## CSUN in Adm. 126:

Monday, May, 9 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, May 16, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. and 5 p.m.-7p.m.

## Cal State LA:

Tuesday, May 10 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Adm. 126

## UC Santa Cruz:

Wednesday, May 11 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Adm. 126

## UCLA:

Wednesday, May 18 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in Adm. 126

## Independent Colleges:

## University of West Los

## Angeles:

Tuesday, May, 17 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Monarch Square.

To Protect,  
Instruct  
and to Sell

■ Valley's top cop  
pulls double duty as an  
instructor.

By TAMMY FUNICELLO  
STAFF WRITER

When Cort Bishop gets a call, he has to wonder: Is it a campus crime? Is it one of his students with a problem? Or is it a buyer for that house he just listed?

Bishop is Valley College's deputy sheriff, teaches criminal justice here — and is a registered real estate agent. He has been a sheriff for 16 years. He started as an officer patrolling the streets but now, at the age of 43, he prefers the school beat.

"I really like working here because the campus is a lot quieter and there is a lot less crime than on the streets," said Bishop. "The crimes here are also quite a bit different. Working the streets I could get 18-25 calls and see two dead bodies in a day."

At Valley, a typical day for the 5'10" deputy includes going on patrol, answering calls for service, and being visible around campus in order to prevent crime. He also helps mentor cadets like Megan Hartman.

"He is honest and always



CYNTHIA PERRY / VALLEY STAR  
**IN FROM THE COLD** - After years on the streets with the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Cort Bishop is now the head of L.A. Valley College Sheriff's Department.

there [to offer] a helping hand," said Hartman.

One of Bishop's current students, 22-year-old sociology major Lazette Farias, said that "as far as teaching goes he is quite thorough, but he seems pretty busy."

The teacher said his schedule still allows time for his other responsibilities.

"It's not that hard to do both," he said. "I work a 40-hour job covering the p.m. shift as a deputy, but I am only part-time as a teacher."

This is Bishop's second semester teaching administration of justice at Valley, after teaching at Southwestern Academy High School and in the Sheriff's Department, as well as giving lectures at various high schools. He says

he plans to continue teaching when he retires from the Sheriff's Department.

"When I was younger I loved patrolling streets, but it's so time-consuming," he said. "I like it here now that I am a little older and have a family, but I wouldn't have liked it before."

Bishop says he loves what he does and has known that this is what he wanted to do since he was in college.

"There are a lot of reasons I wanted to become a sheriff," said Bishop. "People tell you they want to do it to help people and make things better and that's true, but I also like it because every day is different."

"I also can't sit in a seat all day."



COURTESY OF ROBERT DODDS/IMS  
**ReVitalizing Valley** - Campus faculty and staff arrive at the ground breaking of Valley's first new building since 1975.

'Props' continued from page 1

Jacobsmeier. "The buildings we currently use for plant facilities are spread throughout the bungalow area."

"ReVitalizing Valley," the \$286 million project funded by propositions A (passed in 2001) and AA (2003), will bring four more groundbreakings to campus by this time next year, giving Valley a much-needed face-lift.

The gymnasium/pool complex renovation will start this fall, including the installation of a new pool and gym roof, an alarm-system upgrade and a fresh coat of paint.

"It's going to open up a new can of worms for the aquatics," said Swimming/Water Polo

Head Coach Jim McMillan. "It's going to attract new swimmers [and] water polo players. We'll be able to bring in outside swim meets and water polo events and have summer water polo and swim camps."

Next in line are the Media Arts Center and the Hertzberg Library Resource Center that will house the Museum of the San Fernando Valley, scheduled to start in winter of 2006. One of the larger projects in the plans is the three-story Allied Health/Sciences building, which is scheduled to go under the knife next spring.

David May, the chair of the Library, said the best thing about the new library facility will be

that multiple student services will be that multiple student services will be in close proximity, including the learning, writing and reading centers, and the math and supplemental instruction labs.

"We'll also modernize the library," said May. "There will be more computers in the library for research purposes."

Propositions A and AA have secured \$2.2 billion for improvements to the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District. Valley has already made use of the funds,

see Prop page 7

CAMPUS CRIME  
Taggers Hit Valley in Full Force

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS  
DESIGN EDITOR

## Stolen Car

One Valley College student became a car theft victim when his vehicle was stolen from parking lot E on Monday, May 2.

The student had was returning from class at 2:10 p.m. when he noticed his vehicle was missing. He reported the incident to campus police.

The vehicle was reported stolen to the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, no witnesses were found and the suspect remains at large.

## Vandalism

Valley was assaulted again by vandals who caused approximately \$1,000 worth of damage to the campus throughout the weekend.

**The Valley College Sheriff's Department asks that anyone with information regarding any of these incidents please call the department at (818) 947-2911.**

## FIRST PERSON

L.A. Community Colleges  
Lobby for Students' Rights

■ Several community college students headed to Sacramento to address their concerns to lobbyists.

By H.M. MONTES DE OCA  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

On Monday morning, a group of around 75 students from several of the Los Angeles community colleges gathered at Burbank Airport to board a plane to Sacramento. The goal was to ask the state legislators to help community colleges stay affordable.

Among several issues the students addressed were the 144 percent increase in fees over the last two years, eliminating the maximum age disqualification for Cal Grants, making the \$11 health fee mandatory for all students and changing the way Prop 98 distributes funding for community colleges. Many

of the students who attended Sacramento Lobby Day had come to share their personal stories with legislators about how their community colleges changed their life.

Melissa Mendez, a rehabilitated gang member and Harbor College ASO senator attended the two-day event. "I wanted to experience being on the right side of the law," said the 30-year-old sociology major and mother of four. "It helps encourage me to continue my work helping other students."

Monday evening was a chance for students to speak with the lobbyist in charge of the event, who provided students a handout with talking points to see Sacramento page 5

Cinco de Mayo is more than a  
Day of Celebration

■ Cinco de Mayo, with its many interpretations, is a holiday one can make all their own.

By TAMMY FUNICELLO  
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 150 years later, the French are still getting routed at the Battle of Puebla.

"If I have the chance I will come to celebrate because that's what [Cinco de Mayo] is all about," said 32-year-old child development major Wendy Garcia about Valley College's Club Day Cinco de Mayo celebration Thursday. "It sounds like fun to be with people and celebrate a victory."

The holiday commemorates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French Army in the Battle of Puebla in 1862. On May 5, 1862, after the French attacked and ruined a Mexican fort, the Mexicans killed more than a thousand French soldiers and won the battle, but not the war. This date was declared a Mexican National Holiday to honor the army's bravery against the French.

This holiday is now celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico. It has become associated with people dancing, drinking, listening to Mariachi music and going to parades.

"My family gets together for a barbecue or sometimes we go to a park to celebrate," said 18-year-old accounting major Melissa Lopez.

The city of Los Angeles will be celebrating on Olvera Street, with live entertainment, food booths, craft tables and more May 3 through 5. While there were no ships involved in the 1862 engagement, the Queen

Mary in Long Beach is having a carnival on the same days.

Valley College will also be having its own fiesta, sponsored by the M.E.Ch.A. club. All week there will be films shown for free in the Lion's Den, such as "Footprints on the Asphalt," which is film surveying political causes over three recent decades. This will lead to the big celebration Thursday with guest speakers, Mexican food and a variety of music being played.

"Cinco de Mayo is a day the Chicano community celebrates because its their own holiday," said club member Erick Iniguez. "It's a time for us to celebrate our culture."

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## Upcoming STARS Events

"Is Math Doing a Number on You?"

May 4, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Cafeteria Conference Room  
Dispelling common myths and misconceptions about math, using strategies for improving performance in math classes, appreciating math's connection to art, logic, and being successful in other classes, using math to make yourself richer. If you've ever struggled with a math class, this is an opportunity for you.

"Final Exams and Final Projects: A Survival Guide."

May 5, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.,

Cafeteria Conference Room.

Final exam final projects are just around the corner! Don't

end up unprepared, stressed out, and cramming the night before. This workshop, led by Dr. Myron Dembo from USC, will focus on the following questions: How do I prepare a study plan to complete a final paper or project? How do I manage my time effectively? Do I need to seek help? How do I deal with procrastination? The answers to these questions will help you complete the semester successfully and with reduced stress.

All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to attend. Email Deborah Harrington: STARS@lavc.edu or Contact: Scott or Nina at (818) 947-2810.



# OPINION

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## STAFF EDITORIAL

### The (Un)Associated Student Union

The Associated Student Union announced the results of its election last week, revealing that all but the two of the nine winners are Armenian. Not soon after the election, some students said that this year's winners benefited because students voted along ethnic lines.

This issue was also raised at last year's ASU presidential election. Levon Bagramian earned the most votes but was not the candidate favored by the sitting ASU officers. Bagramian brought his own flaws to office, part of the reason the ASU Executive Board recalled him last month, but ASU members said he only won the election because he was Armenian. Not a great way to start a relationship among the president and his fellow officers.

And so what if every Armenian on campus voted for Bagramian last year or voted for this year's ASU officers. Maybe those accusing the Armenians of voting along ethnic lines should take a lesson from them on organization. In addition, many of this year's Armenian candidates ran unopposed. Should they be charged with finding candidates to run against themselves?

The problems with the ASU elections are not students voting along ethnic lines, it's the voting process. Candidates are relatively unknown to the 18,000 students on this campus, a fact highlighted by the less than 500 students who voted in this year's election.

What was missing from this campaign is a campaign. Students weren't given the opportunity to "know" their candidates and what they stand for.

Where is the exposure? Where were the debates that would have not only familiarize the students with the candidates

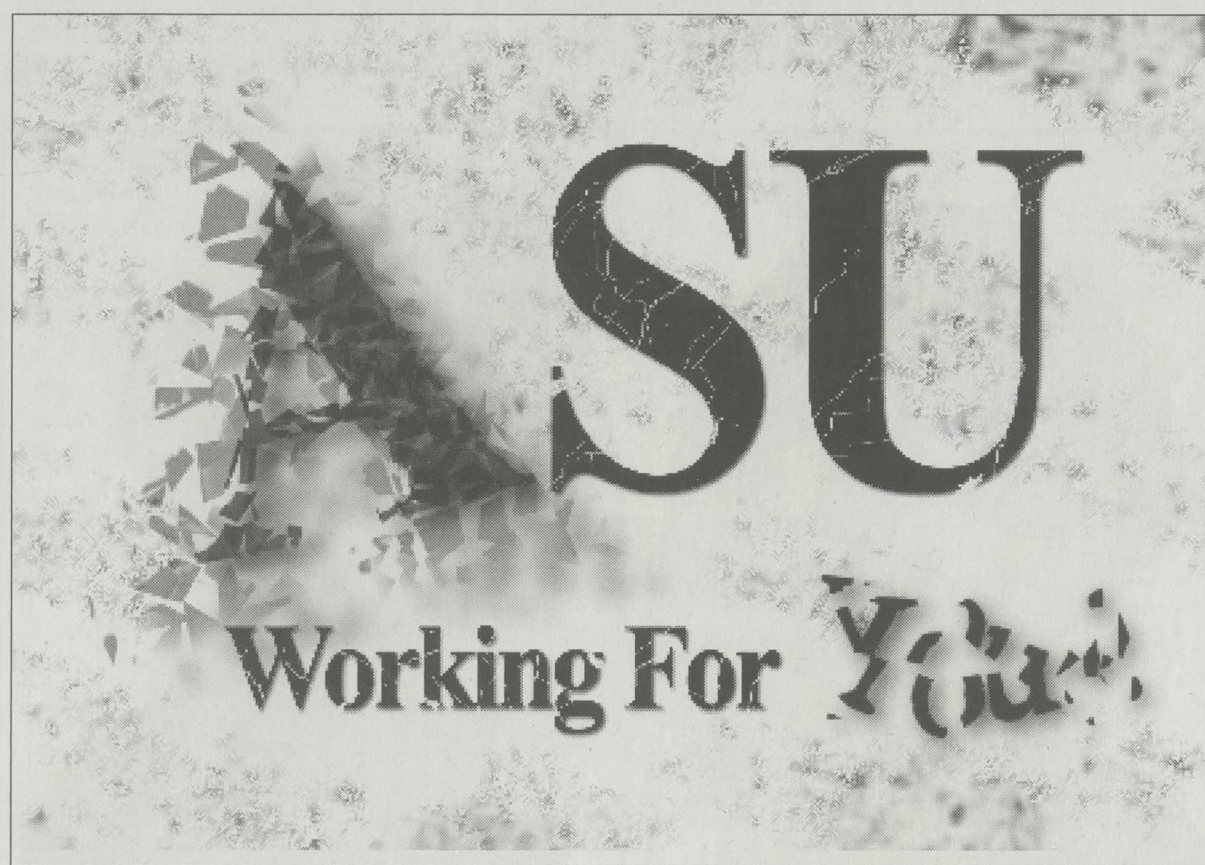


ILLUSTRATION BY GREG BURMANN / VALLEY STAR

but would also generate enough interest among them to possibly decreasing the apathy at the polls?

Without candidate information, all that students have left to base their opinion on is their already existing information of the candidates. And it's not surprising that they are more likely to know more about the candidate of their ethnicity, being a part of the same community and all.

But unfortunately, ASU has been so caught up in their petty arguments that the needs of the Valley students have taken a back seat to the internal conflicts within the ASU.

ASU should instead busy them selves with increasing the student turnout at the polls, which would result in a more balanced ethnic voting body, minimizing the ability of one community to dominate the

election.

So if the Armenia community takes it upon them selves to go out and vote as an organized body...more power to them. There is nothing wrong

with exercising your democratic rights, even if it doesn't fit with someone else's agenda.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Gauntlet Is Thrown

I dare Amanda Yollin, who decided to [provide] false information about me [to] The Valley Star, to debate me in front of LAVC students.

[You were] one of the three people who applied for ASU's ICC representative position. I happened to be more qualified than you and got the position. I assume that your jealousy of me has deeper roots than I imagined.

Ms. Yollin, you have no idea about what I have done in the ASU, and decided to [write] a letter without knowledge or research on the matter. Your argument is weak and this makes you sound not so intelligent.

Your letter about Levon [Bagramian] and me said, "Since you two have joined this unit, ASU has changed for the worse and everyone knows it."

If you can find a single Executive Board member out of 13 or even the adviser of ASU, or any single club ICC Representative or one club president out of 19 clubs that I have been working with in the past seven months, who will say that ASU has changed for the worse after I joined, and even more if anyone can say that Nelli Martirosyan has broken a single promise she made, I swear publicly, that I will drop out of the race for ASU president. Make sure your witnesses aren't as false and made up as your letter about me.

Good luck to you, Amanda Yollin, and keep in mind that ASU isn't about working on being a strong family, but making a difference for the more than 16,000 students who attend LAVC.

-NELLI MARTIROSYAN

INTERCLUB COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

## Campus View

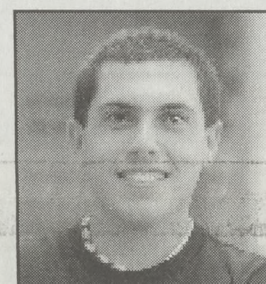
PHOTOS BY DAN VILLASENOR

### How can ASU improve voter turnout?



"Maybe by having some banners around."

-Jessica Sheffer, Earth Science, 19



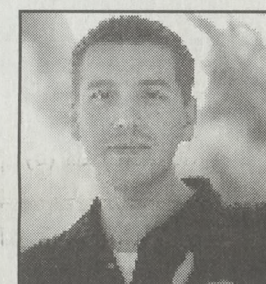
"More exposure of the candidates may be some debates too."

-Richard Key, Media Arts, 21



"Don't try to brag me with candy, go to the classes and talk to the students."

-Febe Pardomo, Undecided, 19



"More debates, and make the students vote."

-Jeremy Kelly, French Lit, 29

## Bush Is His Own "Fear Factor"

■ Network decision to bump president's speech with reality TV is artlessness imitating lifelessness.

BY KATHARINE ANDERSON  
MANAGING EDITOR

Some networks faced a conundrum last Thursday when forced to choose between airing President Bush's prime-time speech and regular programming.

Two of the networks - CBS and Fox - held out to the last minute, finally agreeing to air the speech just hours before its start

time - figuring that surviving the public relations nightmare was worth the loss of their prime-time lineup for a night.

Many viewers paced their homes, cursing the powers that be that decided that Bush's message was more important than Joey's latest trials and tribulations.

This should have been a no-brainer for all parties involved. Our government, our economy, our

country should always come first.

Even though Bush can be long-winded and rarely ever gets to the point, the public did vote him into office and should give him his time to speak.

At what point did prime-time television shows become more important than our country?

"I find it ironic that the major media would complain that Bush holds so few press conferences that

when he does call one, the networks balk," said Tim Graham, director of media analysis at the Media Research Center. "They'd rather make money than perform some tiresome public service duty."

CBS and NBC couldn't help themselves and cut Bush's speech short, switching to "Survivor" and "The Apprentice" before the press conference concluded.

Fox determined that Paris Hilton was 'Simply' better suited for the public's attention than Bush's answer to the final question.

Bush acknowledged his time was running short, stating "I don't want to cut into some of these TV shows that are getting ready to air, for the sake of the economy."

Nice try for an elegant save, Bush.

Unfortunately, like almost everything else, it comes down to money.

"The networks are in a different kind of business than they were in the Nixon and Reagan years," said Martha Kumar, a political science professor at Towson University in Baltimore. "It is a business. News is less of a driver than entertainment."

Face it - most citizens prefer reality TV to just plain, old boring reality.

By interrupting the American viewer's escape, Bush's approval ratings may fall even lower than his current all-time low of 47 percent.

Maybe that'll finally get him voted off the island.

## Good Cops / Good Cops

You always hear the bad things about the campus police. I think that it is time to hear the good things about our campus police.

I was having a lot of problems with my scooter as well as my physical health. I would call and almost before I could hang up they would be there to help me.

One time I fell and two cadets came along with four other officers.

Then another time my battery went down on my scooter by the bookstore. I called the campus police. When they arrived I told them the problem and they made the decision to try to push me and my scooter over by the library.

This is why they are my knights in shining armor.

-LYNN ELLER  
(THE SCOOTER LADY)

## Where Is My Folder?

I'm missing a green folder with papers that are really important to me. I am willing to give a \$40 reward to anyone who wants to search and capture this folder of mine. Anyone with any information about this can contact the Sheriff's Department at LAVC on Campus Drive. Please be honest. If you found the folder I will still give you a \$40 reward. I lost the folder in business journalism building or Monarch Lair next to the library. It's a thin, hardback green folder with ten pieces of paper. The information is important to me and I would like to have it back. 818-947-2911. \$40 reward for the folder and its contents.

Thank you,

-BERNIE BARTKIEWICZ JR.  
Student Cadet

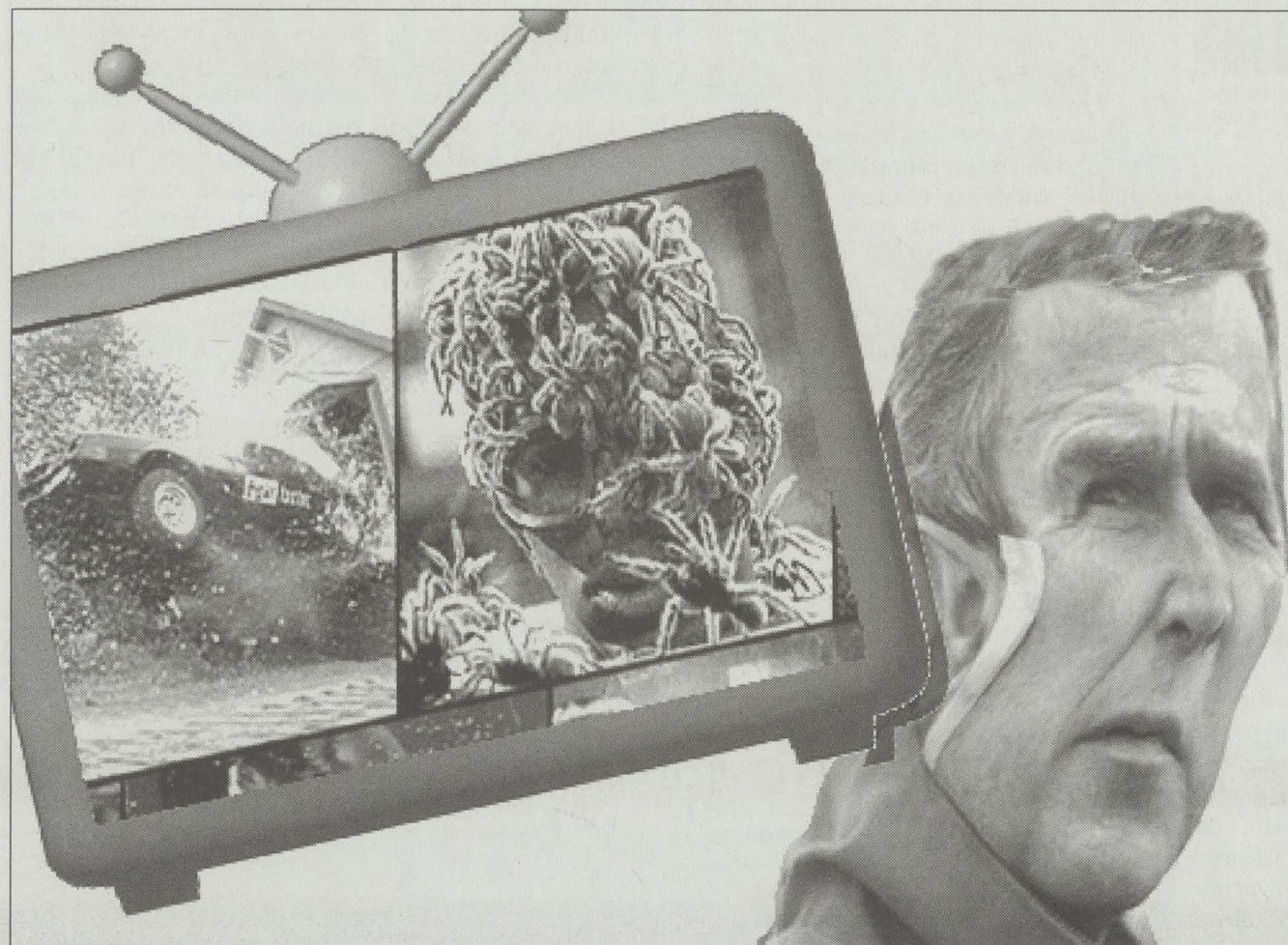


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR



## WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Saturday, May 7

**Valley Symphony Orchestra**  
Mitchell Newman, violin;  
Robert Chauls, conductor  
8 p.m.  
Mainstage Theatre  
\$20 general admission; \$15  
students and seniors

**Ken O'Malley in Concert**  
7:30 p.m.  
Music Recital Hall  
\$15

**Moby**  
9p.m.  
Wilern LG  
\$35

Thursday, May 12

**New Winds Quintet plus One**  
11:30 a.m.  
Music Recital Hall  
Admission is Free

**The Valley Collegiate  
Players Present:**  
Christopher Durang's  
"The Actor's Nightmare" &  
"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It  
All For You"  
8 p.m.  
Horseshoe Theatre  
\$15 General Admission  
\$10 Students & Seniors  
Reservations: 947-2790  
Thursday-Saturday  
May 5-7 & May 12-14

Tuesday, May 17

**Performance Workshop  
Concert**  
11:20a.m.  
Music Recital Hall  
Admission is Free

## CAMPUS CLUBS

**MONDAY:  
ASA**  
Armenian Student Association  
Meeting Place: CC 201  
Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
President: Gayane Markosyan  
(818) 438-9825

**BSU**  
Black Student Union  
Meeting Place: FL 112  
Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
President: Crystal Willis  
BSU\_lavc@yahoo.com

**VCP**  
Valley Collegiate Players  
Meeting Place: TA 101  
Time: 3 p.m.  
President: Joanne Jacques  
(818) 648-8456

**DANCE**  
Meeting Place: North  
Gym, Dance Studio  
Time: 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
President: Zerline Webb  
(818) 231-3971

Tuesday:

**TAE**  
Tau Alpha Epsilon  
Meeting Place: CC 205  
Time: 1 p.m.  
President: Lorelie Sabado  
(818) 367-9152

**MUSIC**  
Meeting Place: Music 105  
Time: 3:15 p.m.  
President: Robyn Mims  
(818) 309-6027

Wednesday:

**M.E.Ch.A**  
Meeting Place: FL 111  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
President: Erika Meraz  
(818) 985-7041

**HILLEL**  
Meeting Place: Monarch  
Square  
Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
President: David Blaustein  
(818) 257-4660

# Maria Butterly Returns to Valley

■ Maria Butterly takes Valley's Recital Hall by Storm as the four part Irish Music Series continues Saturday nights at Valley.

BY MAGGIE OWNBEY  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The electrical storm coming from Valley College's Music Recital Hall Saturday night wasn't due to a change in the weather it started with the first chords of Maria Butterly and her Band as they hit the stage.

The second evening of the four-part Irish Music Series sponsored by Kerry Records featured the energetic and unique sound of an artist destined to shine.

"It's Celtic, acoustic, rock-fusion," said Margaret O'Carroll owner of Kerry Records.

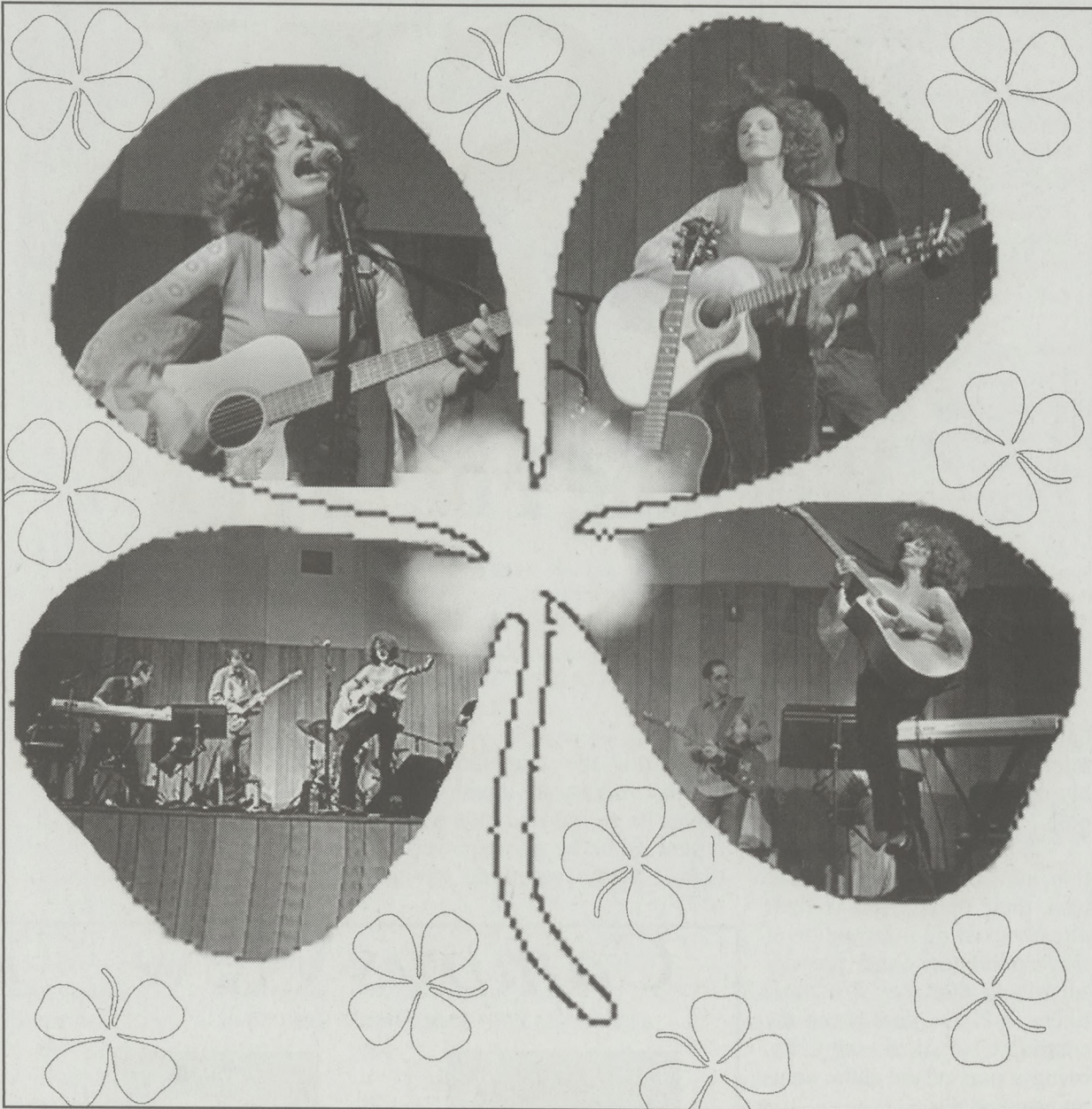
Butterly is playing all original songs that showcase her soulful to powerful style of music.

"She's truly dynamic," said Margaret Murphy here on vacation from Dublin with her husband Thomas. "I knew her when she was a wee kid back home in Ireland."

The melodic "So Beautiful" gave the band a chance to show off their talents, while "Right on Time" gave the few audience members that were there a chance to sing along.

Brother Dermot Butterly joined her on stage for two songs. Their beautiful harmonies proved that talent runs in the family.

"She has both sides to her—traditional Irish side and then she rocks out," said John Clement, stage manager with Kerry Records.



IRISH DELIGHT - Maria Butterly and her band shakes Valley's Music Recital Hall with a loud rock fusion sound on Saturday as they continued the second part of a four part Irish music series.

DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

The beautiful solo "Thankful" performed at the grand piano let her more reflective side come through.

"I wrote this shortly after my Dad passed away last year about him, and my life today because of him, emotional upheavals, triumphs and pulling myself up to the best I can be."

A knock on the stage door brought band-members Byron Holley on drums, Yukihide Takiyama on bass, Isaac Sprintis on electric guitar and Tardu Yegin on saxophone, whistles, keyboards, percussion, flute, clarinet—to name a few—back to join Butterly.

"They're very connected and brilliantly trained," said Butterly.

The band is in pre-production on a new CD that will be launched nationally, her latest acoustic release; "It's just me" is available at kerryrecords.com.

Ken O'Malley returns to the Music Recital Hall stage Saturday, May 7 in the third installment of the Irish music series. The Dublin born and raised Irish folksinger-songwriter opened the first night of the series with beautiful traditional Irish ballads.

O'Malley has performed with The Chieftains, Mary Black, Paul Brady, The Wolf Tones and many more.

## Broadway Fundraiser



SCOTT MITCHELL / SPECIAL TO THE STAR

SINGING FOR FUNDS - Julie Cage-Lindsay, Donna Neff, Laurie King, and Esther Gwynne quartet performance of, "All The Things You Are" Sunday night.

BY TAMMY FUNICELLO  
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Philharmonic Choir entertained Sunday night's Mainstage Theatre audience with many well-known Broadway hits such as "Luck be a Lady," "The sound of Music" and "Come Rain or Come Shine."

The choir, made up of Valley students whose average age just happens to be more than 60, performed the Broadway favorites for the more-than-100-member audience. Along with Broadway songs, choir member John Barbarotta performed an original piece called "A Walk in the Park" on the piano.

"The show went great," said Jennifer Kelly. "I am really proud of the choir. The audience enjoyed it and the choir enjoyed singing, which is most important."

Between Songs, gift baskets were raffled off to keep the audience entertained while the next performer set up.

"I'm really enjoying the show," said former choir member Russell Schuh. "They are improving every time they do this."

The audience, filled with many friends and family members of the choir, showed its enjoyment with the loud applause after every song. Many attended the fundraiser to support the choir and the community.

"It's a very good show," beamed John Wyman, the proud husband of a choir member.

The choir's next performance, "A Celebration of Women" on June 5 in the Mainstage Theatre, will include the UCLA University Chorus and the Valley College Chamber of Singers.

## An Evening of Insanity and Blasphemy at Valley

■ Valley Collegiate Players brings some of Valley's brightest stars to stage.

BY  
VALLEY STAR STAFF

Ever have one of those dreams when you're in class, there's a test you didn't know about and it's on a subject you've never heard of?

And you're naked?

That's the metaphorical setting of Christopher Durang's brilliant "The Actor's Nightmare," one of the author's two hilarious one-act plays coming to the Horseshoe Theatre the next two weekends for the Valley Collegiate Players' annual spring fundraiser.

This being an actor's nightmare, however, the protagonist (an accountant) finds himself suddenly playing the lead in a show that seems at one moment to be "Hamlet," at another to be Noël Coward's "Private Lives" and after blinking, Samuel Beckett's "Endgame." Among others.

Theatre enthusiasts may get more of the in-jokes than the uninitiated, but the plight is universal enough for everyone to be amused – and unsettled.

In the other piece, the infamous "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," a slightly batty, somewhat sadistic nun lectures the audience on the decline of Western civilization.

It's a comedy.

Director (and Fine Arts Commissioner-elect) Hallie Baran said of the play's more controversial elements involving Catholic doctrine, "I'm Anglican – Catholic-lite, as they say, Catholic without the guilt. It just seems like there's more serious issues at hand than pre-marital sex."

"Sister Mary" recently had a high-profile Showtime television production starring Diane Keaton as the malevolent penguin herself. Despite that less-than-sparkling display, the play remains

uproarious – although devout Catholics may need to wash out their ears with soap afterward. Durang's vision of the domineering nun is more ruler-on-wrist than Sally Field.

"Three weeks into rehearsal," said Baran, "the pope died." It has yet to be proved, however, that their production caused John Paul II's passing.

Both plays, major hits in the early 1980s, reflect Durang's dark, absurd and brainy sensibility (the Yale alum was a classmate and collaborator of Sigourney Weaver). "Sister Mary" may have a few dated moments, but the main character remains as iconic, bizarrely funny and frightening as ever.

"[The] beliefs, [the] dogma hasn't changed. It's relative to today's issues," said Baran.

Three guesses what Benedict XVI would say.

## FIGHT LIKE A SQUIRREL





## 'Election'

continued from page 1

had originally been scheduled for today, but was postponed because the ASU didn't give the 24-hour notice the Brown Act requires for special meetings.

"My biggest concern is that the election committee consists of either biased people or people who I don't think have their own independent thinking," said Nelli Martirosyan, one of the four presidential candidates who filed a complaint. "I have no worries about the committee's decision though, because to me, it's not final."

"They should do the whole election over again, so they know the other positions weren't tainted," said 18-year-old Valley student James Matthews. "[A new election would be] reassurance for the voters."

The winner for each office except president was announced April 26. The four presidential candidates waiting on the election committee's decision include Adam Park, Olivia Njuki and current ASU commissioner of Theresa Chavez and Martirosyan, the current inter-club council representative.

The election committee's meeting doesn't guarantee that Valley students will know soon who will be the next ASU president. ASU officials say there are four possible outcomes to the meeting: The hearing could result in a candidate's disqualification or penalty, a run-off election or a winner could be announced.

"Hopefully we'll be able to announce the president for 2005-

2006," said Rodriguez.

In 2002, the ASU postponed its announcement of president due to similar complaints and conducted a special hearing.

The ASU's latest problems come on the heels of the Executive Board recalling President Levon Bagramian last month. The Executive Board's recall petition of Bagramian cited five unexcused absences from both the ASU Finance Committee meetings and the Los Angeles Community College District student affairs meetings. The document also said that Bagramian threatened several ASU members, telling a fellow ASU officer to "shut up" during

a club function. Bagramian was unavailable for comment after the meeting.

Some sitting ASU members had objected to Bagramian's victory, saying that he won the election because of his Armenian heritage. Some voters say that the ASU needs to do a better job attracting votes. This year, fewer than 500 students voted in the ASU elections, that's less than 3 percent of the student population. Last year more than 600 students voted.

"Whoever the next president is, I hope they keep in mind that they have the student body's best interest at heart," said Chavez.

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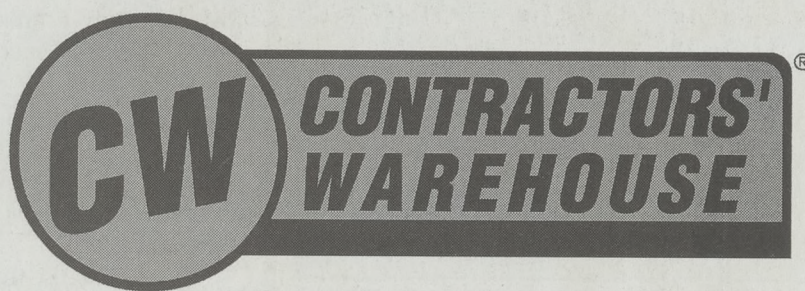
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Irish News and Entertainment, March '05.

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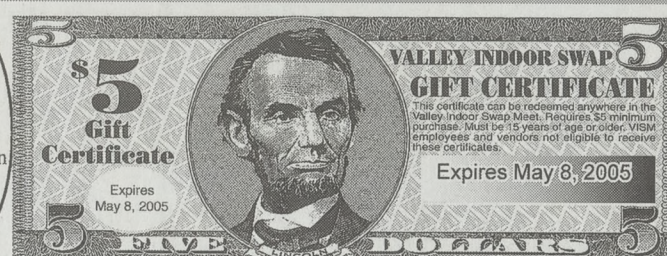
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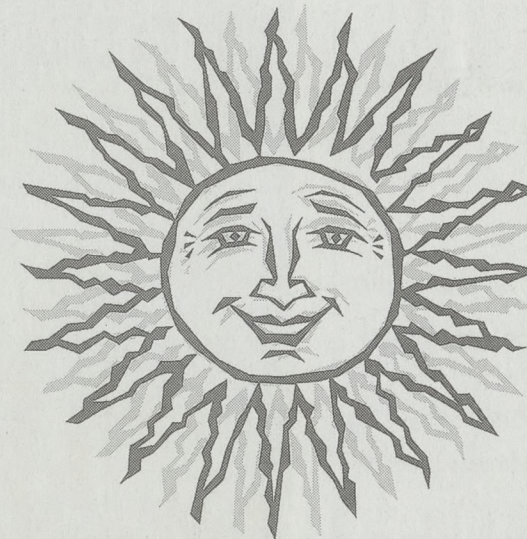
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## Stars of the Week

## Baseball

**Eddie Baeza** *Pitcher*  
He went 3 for 4; 3 singles and a RBI. He also pitched seven innings, struck out 11 batters.

**Raul Perez** *Catcher*  
He went 2 for 4; single, and a three-run homerun.

**Robert Ninfo** *Second Baeman*  
He went 2 for 4 including a lead off homerun.

**DJ Lewis** *Outfielder*  
He went 1 for 4; drew a walk and hit a single.

## Swimming

**Matt Alberti**  
He qualified for the state finals in the 200-yard IM, 400-yard IM and the 200-yard backstroke.

**Valentine Alberti**  
She qualified for the state finals in the 50-yard, 100-yard and the 200-yard free style.

**Megan Winchell**  
She qualified for the state finals in the 50-yard breaststroke and 100-yard breaststroke.

## LAVC SCORES

**Basbal @ Citrus**  
(W 7-1) 4/30/05  
Baseball Record: 22-13, 16-6

## Men

**Swim @ Cuesta College**  
(3rd in conference) 4/30/05  
Swimming Record: 3-3

## Women

**Swim @ Cuesta College**  
(5th in Conference) 4/30/05  
Swimming Record: 1-4-1

## LAVC SCHEDULE

**Wednesday 5/4/05**  
Baseball @ College of Canyons 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday 5/5/05**  
Swim @ State Chianionship- Diablo Valley  
All day

**Friday 5/6/05**  
Swim @ State Chianionship- Diablo Valley  
All day

**Saturday 5/7/05**  
Swim @ State Championship Diablo Valley  
All day  
Track & Field @ So. Cal. Finals  
Softball @ WSC Championship at Cypress College

**Sunday 5/8/05**  
No Scheduled Games

**Monday 5/9/05**  
No Scheduled Games

**Tuesday 5/10/05**  
No Scheduled Games

**Wednesday 5/11/05**  
No Scheduled Games

## PRO SCORES

## NBA Finals

**Dallas def. Houston (103-100)**

**Washington def. Chicago (106-99)**

## MLB

**Washington def. LA Dogers (6-2)**

**San Francisco def. Arizona (9-8)**

**St. Louis def. Cincinnati (10-9)**

**New York def. Philadelphia (5-1)**

**Houston def. Pittsburgh (11-4)**

**San Diego def. Colorado (5-4)**



For more sport photos and stories, please visit  
[www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

## Swimmers Head to State

■ The Monarchs men's swim team defeated the Pierce Brahmas 142-77 on Thursday, while the Lady Monarchs succeeded 103-103 a tie.

By ZABIE MANSOORY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Three Valley College swimmers qualified for the state championships this weekend to be held at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hills, California.

Matt Alberti qualified for the state championship in the 200-yard individual medley, the 400-yard individual medley and the 200-yard backstroke. Matt's sister, Valentine Alberti, earned a spot in the state races in the 50-yard, 100-yard and the 200-yard freestyle events.

"As a team we did very well," said Valentine "Our hard work paid off at the end."

**"I think you judge a season by how well your student athletes do. Every single person had their personal best in the conference meet."**

"The three of them are talented swimmers and they deserve to be there," said Head Coach Jim McMillan. "Our goal is to have these guys to swim the best time in their lives. If they make it to final good, if they don't we just want them to try their best."

Megan Winchell, who quali-



OFF THE DEEP END - Valley swimmer Ariga Hacopian is contributing to the cause as three Monarchs' swimmers advance to State Finals.

fied for state in the 50-yard breaststroke and the 100-yard breaststroke, said, "This was an amazing season for me, I had my lifetime best this season."

Winchell who took second place in the 50-yard breaststroke at the Western State Conference Championships held this past weekend at Cuesta College. The men took third place at the conference championships with a total of 505 points and the women finished fifth with 387 points.

"It [the season] went very well and above expectations," said McMillan. "I think you judge a season by how well your student athletes do. Every single person had their personal best in the conference meet."

McMillan credited the help of his assistant coaches for the successful season.

"This was a much better season for us," said Krauss, an assistant coach. "We are really looking forward for the state championship."

## Lady Monarchs Enter Regional Playoffs

■ Valley Softball finishes season with 12-1 win over Glendale College to enter the first round regional playoffs.

By SAM HAHN  
STAFF WRITER

After finishing the 2005 regular season with a 12-1 victory over the Glendale Vaqueros last Thursday, Valley Softball qualified for the State Regional playoffs by finishing with a 16-8 conference and 26-12-1 overall record.

"Well, I think the [regular season] went well for us," said Head Coach Frankie Garcia, whose Lady Monarchs' team finished third in the WSC standings behind College of the Canyons and Bakersfield College. "We did what we had to do in order for us to get into the playoffs."

"This means that all our hard work has paid off," said sophomore third baseman Barbara Reguengo. "We deserve to be in the playoffs."

Being in a collective pool of 32 (16 Northern and 16 Southern) teams in all of California, Garcia stated that making it this far was big for this Lady Monarch team that narrowly missed the playoffs last season after finishing with a 12-12 conference record.

"I feel relieved that we finally got into the playoffs [this season] because we deserved it," said sophomore catcher Lorena Arreguin. "We expected to get in, because it's

been our goal from the beginning of the season."

Playing in a pool that includes of fourth seeded Cypress College, fifth seeded College of the Canyons, and twelfth seeded Saddleback College, the 13th seeded Lady Monarchs face a tough road.

Entering the playoffs with a low seed, the Lady Monarchs must make improvements in order to go deep into the playoffs.

"In the postseason, we have to step up...we have to have consistent defense, great pitching, and we have to score runs," Garcia said. "We have to basically keep doing what we've been doing."

Sophomore pitcher/outfielder Amanda Salazar stated that the Lady Monarchs received such a low seed because they lost to a lot of weaker teams this season.

"We kind of played down to their level," Salazar explained. "It's our fault that we lost to them. But, we have to play at our level, and not the level of other teams. We shouldn't have to change our level of play for anyone."

Valley Softball will begin regional softball play on Saturday, May 7 against fourth seeded Cypress College at 12 p.m. This double elimination first round will continue on Sunday.

## Monarch Swimmers Splashing Forward

■ Winchell is in the peak of her swimming career as she heads to state championship.

By TAMMY FUNICELLO  
STAFF WRITER

Valley college swimmer Megan Winchell manages to be one of the strongest swimmers in the state while juggling a coaching job and maintaining her 3.2 GPA.

Winchell swims the 50-yard and 100-yard breaststroke and is one of the three Valley swimmers to qualify for the states meet next weekend at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hills.

"That is one of the biggest meets of the year for junior college swimmers," said Winchell. "It is the meet everyone tries to qualify for so it feels really good to have made it."

Winchell starting swimming at age 5, but after high school she grew tired of the sport and didn't swim her first two years at Valley. In her third year, she joined the swim team and fell in love with the sport again.

"It is an extremely competitive sport," said Winchell. "I also like it because it's an individual and team sport. It's hard, but fun."

Winchell plans on transferring to California State University, Long Beach to swim in the fall.

The third-year Valley student works as the head coach for the women's swim team at her former high school, Crescenta Valley High to earn money for school.

When she isn't working or swimming, Winchell likes to travel to visit her

friends or go to her family's home in Mexico.

"Megan puts her all into everything she does," said Winchell's best friend Stephanie Flavin. "It's her dedication that makes her successful in everything she takes on."

Winchell is taking 12 units this semester but her main focus is swimming and coaching, since she has already finished her core classes. The psychology major isn't sure of her

future plans.

"I maybe want to be a health teacher or coach swimming or water polo at the college level," said Winchell. "I can't decide which one yet because I love them both."

She is the middle child in the family with an older and younger brother and likes that she's the only girl in the family.

"I am daddy's little princess," said Winchell.

■ The 20-year-old Jeff Benzer led the Monarchs to an outstanding season as they secured the third place in the conference.

By HANS CARDENAS  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

It seems that ever since Jeff Benzer was little he needed to have an aquatic life. Whether it involves catching frogs at a Sunland pond he grew up by, surfing big waves at the beach or proving his merit on the swim team, he's always been one with the water

and one to bring the rest of his team along for the ride.

"He brings strong work ethics to the team," said coach Jim McMillan, was also Benzer's water polo coach. He's serious about swimming and serious about competing. It definitely rubs off on the others."

The soft-spoken 20-year-old achieved his personal best time of

1:48.55 in the 200-meter freestyle at the Western State Conference held at Cuesta College last weekend. This was an accomplishment that he calls one of the best of his career.

"When I get up there I want to show the other guy that I'm just as good as him," Benzer said. "I can stick with the best and hold my own."

Benzer, an L.A. county lifeguard since 18, joined the swim team on a whim in high school to stay in shape for the water polo team but then found success where he least expected it. In fact, he chose to attend Valley College because it was the only community college in his area that had a water polo team.

The sophomore isn't all about competition though, he has a very laid back side to him. Besides spending time with his girlfriend and watching Napoleon Dynamite, he loves to surf. It's been an infatuation of his since he was 4. One of his biggest role models is legendary big wave surfer Laird Hamilton. Benzer says, "One day I hope to accomplish half of what he has in his career."

Benzer will be transferring to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall to join their water polo team.

"I'm going to miss Valley," he said. "But I won't miss the traffic."



MOVING TO THE NEXT LEVEL - Valley swimmers are taking a dip, as Megan Winchell (left) advances to the State Finals while Jeff Benzer fell short to qualify, but managed to create a new personal best of 1:48:55 in 200-yard freestyle.

Greg Burmann / Valley Star



# News

7

## 'Props'

continued from page 1

renovating several campus restrooms and buildings, including the Art Gallery.

The new classrooms will be equipped with full technological upgrades, including complete sound systems, DVD players and televisions.

"Over the next five to six years, students can look forward to significantly better buildings to learn in," said Jacobsmeier, who is serving as the leader of the Building User Group - or BUG - for the Maintenance and Operations / Sheriff's Station.

## 'Monarchs'

continued from page 1

By splitting the season series 2-2 against Citrus, the Monarchs have either won or split every conference series that they've played this season. This is a far different cry from last year as Valley managed just one conference win.

The Owls jumped out to an early 1-0 lead as third baseman Matt Ross, who tripled earlier in the inning, scored from third as sophomore catcher Raul Perez unsuccessfully attempted to pick off freshman DH Brandon Daudt who stole second base.

Riding the arm of undefeated sophomore ace Eddie Baeza (7-0 in conference), Valley answered by scoring two runs in the top of the fourth inning as sophomore second baseman Robert Ninfo led off the inning with a homerun. Baeza, who hit a single later in the inning, scored on a single by Perez after stealing second base.

Valley struck again in the top of the fifth inning by scoring five runs. Ninfo started off the inning

"It will really enhance what we do [and] will also increase staff morale."

Each planned facility has a BUG consisting of 5 to 20 faculty members, administrators and staff from URS, the company serving as the program manager, overseeing all campus construction. The BUGs were created to ensure that those affected by the new projects are involved in the decision-making process.

This is Valley's first contract with URS, which handles the contracts with all the architects, engineers and contractors involved in the renovation project.

by reaching on an error, while sophomore left fielder DJ Lewis reached on a single.

Baeza's R.B.I. single scored Ninfo, while sophomore first baseman Matt Jordan's single scored Lewis who took third on Baeza's hit. The inning however was highlighted by Perez's three-run homerun that pushed Valley's lead 7-1.

"[Ninfa and Perez] really stepped it up for us," Mallas explained. "Robert did a great job of getting us on the scoreboard with that homerun in the fourth. Perez also came up big as he worked the count and allowed us to hold a comfortable lead."

The six-run lead was all Baeza needed as the L.A. Poly High Alumnus strapped down and shut out the Owls by striking out 11 batters in just seven innings of work.

"We're finally coming together," Baeza said. "We're getting good at bats when we need them. Earlier in the season, we had a hard time doing that, but people are coming through."

The game was all but over as the Owls mustered just one hit and

## 'Sacramento'

continued from page 1

bring up during their meetings with the legislators. Although the students were expected to speak about the nine specific issues outlined in the handout, the organizers encouraged students to speak on issues that affected us personally.

Hughes Kuedituka, a student from West Los Angeles College, was interested in attending Lobby Day because in his home country of the Democratic Republic of Congo, political power is highly centralized.

"I wanted to be part of the process. This was an opportunity to see political power used for the good of people," said the 19-year-old business major.

two base runners after scoring a run earlier in the second inning.

Mallas says that Saturday's win all but clinched a playoff berth for the Monarchs, who will end the season with a two game series against College of the Canyons next week.

"The [playoff berth] means a lot to us," Mallas said. "It's been a while since Valley baseball has gone to the postseason...it says a lot and hopefully we can prove that we're back for good."

Mallas stated that while Valley was 'rebuilding' this season, the goals that were set earlier in the year were met.

"We wanted to be able to compete with anyone in this conference," Mallas said. "We've done that this year."

"We're all staying on the same page," said Ninfa. "We want to be successful, and we have something to prove to everyone...and that's Valley baseball is no longer a joke."

The Monarchs will play their final home against the C.O.C. Cougars Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.

## 'Rally'

continued from page 1

to solar energy to become less reliant on electricity, and investing in biotech, such as with stem cell research.

Villaraigosa will square off against incumbent James Hahn in a runoff election for the mayorship of Los Angeles on May 17. The two were the top finishers in the 2001 race, with Villaraigosa winning the general election but Hahn garnering enough votes to force the runoff that he eventually won. Hahn again trailed Villaraigosa in this year's general election, but this time the challenger holds a commanding 18-point lead, according to a recent Los Angeles Times poll.

"If you're willing to accept mediocrity then you better be willing to live with it," said Villaraigosa of his opponent. "It's time for a fresh start in L.A."

While Parks didn't speak at the rally, his presence spoke volumes. When Parks ran for a second term three years ago, Hahn failed to back the chief, costing him the endorsements of many prominent black leaders in the city.

There was no shortage of Hahn supporters at the rally, speaking out against Villaraigosa.

"We're going out there to tell voters about the real Antonio," said Art Pulido of the Viva Hahn campaign, who claims that Villaraigosa has abandoned his responsibilities as a council member to campaign for mayor.

Villaraigosa's platform focuses on public transportation and health care, while Hahn's main concern is traffic and education.

Charges of corruption surround the race, as Hahn is being investigated for issuing contracts in exchange for campaign contributions, and Villaraigosa faces a probe by District Attorney Steve Cooley's office into possible money laundering over a \$41,000 campaign donation from a Miami-based business.

"There's a brown haze over city hall—it's time for a fresh start," Villaraigosa told the crowd. "Too much derision, not enough vision."

"Antonio Villaraigosa will be a mayor for all of Los Angeles," Kerry said to the crowd.

THE HOLOCAUST  
AND ITS RELEVANCE TODAY  
A Survivor's Perspective

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER  
**SI FRUMKIN**

A special program for  
Holocaust Remembrance Day

Thursday May 5th  
11:30 am - 12:45 pm  
Monarch Hall

Join us in Monarch Hall on Yom  
Hashoah as Holocaust Survivor Si  
Frumkin shares his heroic story  
and takes questions from students

This program is co-sponsored by Hillel at Valley College,  
the Committee for Ethnic and Cultural Affairs  
and the Associated Student Union.

For more information, please contact  
Hillel at P.O. Box 8, Valley College  
at (916) 927-5901

**LAST Club Day**  
MAY 4TH  
9 AM - 2 PM

**SPRING GAMES**

Prizes Volleyball  
Wheel barrel  
Obstacle Course  
Water balloon Toss

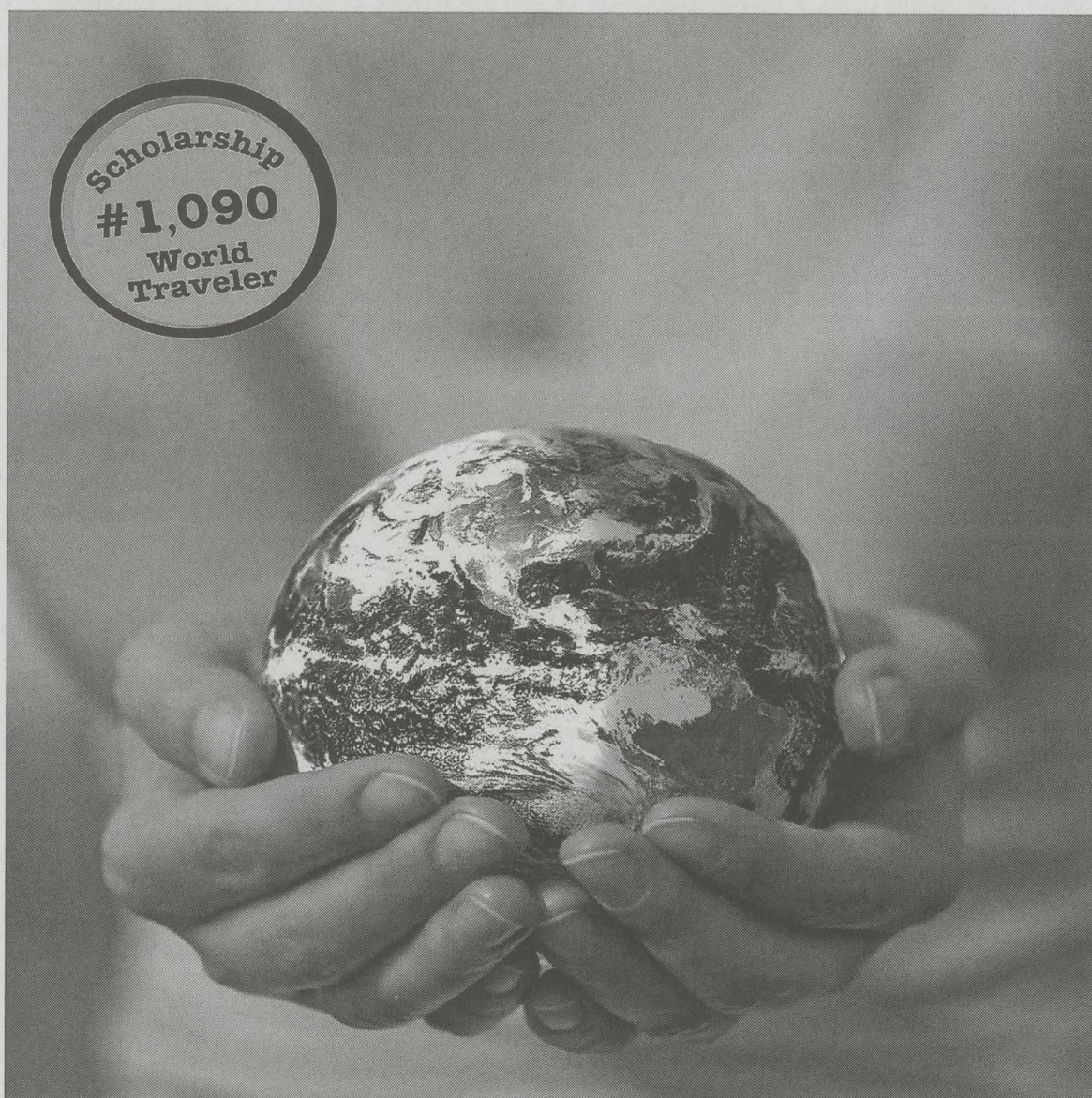
**@ Monarch Square**

**Cineo de Mayo**  
1 am - 2 pm

food music entertainment  
guest speaker

Event by  
**MEChA**

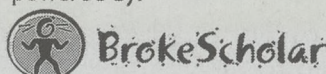
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## Loan Consolidation Benefits College Graduates

Recent grads must act before July 1 to secure historically low interest rates

If you're like most students, chances are you'll be leaving school with thousands of dollars in student loan debt. Although making monthly student loan payments while starting out on your own can be difficult, consolidation can help.

Consolidation is one of the smartest ways for college graduates to manage student loan debt - but it is critical to act quickly. Time is running out to lock in one of the lowest interest rates in history. Rates are likely to rise on July 1 - only three months from now.

The Federal Consolidation Loan Program allows graduates (or parents with PLUS loans) to combine all eligible federal student loans into a single new loan. This new consolidated loan has a fixed interest rate and extended repayment terms that can significantly lower monthly payments. Congress established the Federal Loan Consolidation Program so graduates can take advantage of one low, fixed rate and take more time to pay back their loans. This means that cash-strapped graduates with comparably low entry-level salaries can take smaller chunks out of their paychecks for loan payments - and have more money left over to pay rent and other necessary bills.

Additionally, graduates who consolidate within the first six months after graduation - before their loans enter repayment - can reduce their interest rate by up to an additional 0.6 percent<sup>1</sup>. Although a 0.6 percent decrease may seem small, it can potentially save thousands of dollars in interest over time.

**This year, there's even more reason for graduates to act quickly.** Over the past several years, rates have fallen to historic lows. That's about to change, however, as this year's rates are expected to rise by two percentage points or more. **It is important to take immediate action before federal student loan interest rates are adjusted on July 1.**

The Congressional Budget Office projects that student loan rates for the 2005-2006 school year will jump by at least two percentage points, to about 5.5 percent, and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future\*. This potential increase would be reflected in both Stafford and PLUS loan rates.

Graduates who consolidate before these new, higher rates take effect on July 1 can avoid the rate increase and save thousands by consolidating today and locking in unprecedented low interest rates for the life of their loan.

"According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal student loan interest rates are projected to rise this July and each July thereafter in the near future," Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy wrote in a Bentley College Vanguard editorial March 10. "According to the Congressional Research Service, the fixed interest rate benefit today is worth over \$5,000 for the typical, new student borrower over the life of his or her college debt."

For more information, call a loan consultant at 1-866-311-8076 or visit [www.lavalleystar.com/studentloan](http://www.lavalleystar.com/studentloan) to see if you qualify for these savings.

While visiting the paper online, be sure to sign up for the email edition. It's the best way to stay informed beyond graduation, and it's free.

### Consolidation Benefits

- Lower monthly payments. Extended repayment terms can cut your monthly student loan payments in half and help you make ends meet. You can use the extra money for necessities like housing, transportation or credit card debt.
- Fixed Interest Rate. Your existing student loans have a variable rate that could rise over time. By consolidating, you'll lock in a fixed interest rate for the life of your loan, saving you money by giving you immunity from any future rate increases.
- One Convenient Payment. You'll have only one student loan payment to make each month to one lender.
- Borrower Benefits<sup>2</sup>. You may be able to lower your fixed interest rate by up to an additional 1.25 percent by making your payments electronically and on-time.
- Act Quickly - Two Reasons. If you are about to graduate (or have recently graduated), you should consolidate before your loans enter repayment. If you do so, you can receive an additional 0.06 percent rate reduction. Also, loan interest rates are expected to rise on July 1. Apply early to ensure you lock in today's historically low rates before they increase in July.
- It's Free. It costs nothing to consolidate - there are no fees, no credit checks and no prepayment penalties.
- Are You About to Graduate? Act now by registering with the Student Loan Consolidation Program (SLCP). SLCP will provide you with additional information about consolidation and will contact you after graduation to remind you to apply early. SLCP will make sure you don't have to worry about missing out on the benefits of consolidation. It's free and there's no obligation.

<sup>1</sup> Stephen Burd, "Combating After Effects in Fight Over Student Loan Consolidation," The Chronicle of Higher Education, April 1, 2005.  
<sup>2</sup> Lender(s) and servicer(s) reserve the right to modify, extend or discontinue this program at any time without notice. Changes to this program, if any, will not affect loans that previously qualified for these or any other benefits. All loan rate reductions and other borrower benefits terminate upon either a loan default or failure to continue to meet a borrower benefit qualification. Please call for details on our current benefit offerings.



## The Mayoral Race Comes to Valley

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**SUPPORT IN NUMBERS** - Christian Solano and others came out Saturday afternoon to show their support for Antonio Villaraigosa.

As the race for the Los Angeles Mayor's office reaches its final stretch, Councilman Antonio Villaraigosa received the endorsement of former Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry at a rally in Monarch Square Saturday in front of some 500 supporters.

"Antonio Villaraigosa will be a mayor for all of Los Angeles," said Sen. Kerry.

Villaraigosa's rally also featured about 75 pro-Hahn supporters, demonstrating nearby, chanting "Villaraigosa, mayor of Miami," alluding to a controversy over Villaraigosa's out-of-state campaign funding.

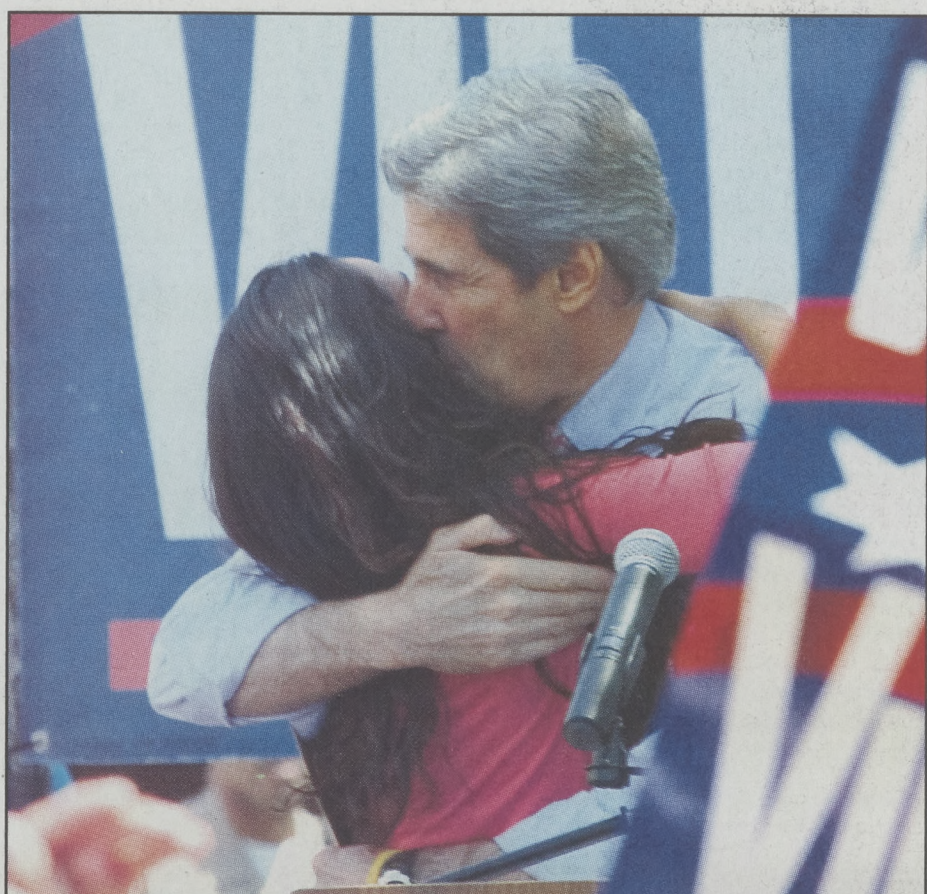
"There is no one in American politics, myself included, who hasn't had a contribution made inadvertently to our campaigns that when we learn about it, we return it," said Kerry in regards to Villaraigosa's \$47,000 out-of-state campaign contributions. "We do what's right."

Kerry was one of more than a dozen elected Democrats who came to urge support for Villaraigosa just two weeks before the May 17 runoff election. The elected officials included former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg, Councilman Bernard Parks, State Sen. Gloria Romero, State Sen. Debra Bowen, Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas, Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, School Board President Jose Huizar and Community College Trustee Kelley Candaele, among others.

"There's a brown haze over City Hall - it's time for a fresh start," Villaraigosa told his supporters. "Too much derision, not enough vision."

Campus Sheriff's officials stopped the little stifle between pro-Hahn supporters and Villaraigosa's supporters just before Kerry and Villaraigosa arrived at the stage.

Kerry added that Villaraigosa will put additional police officers in the streets of Los Angeles to help make those streets safer, and that Villaraigosa will open the door for healthcare.



**WARM THANK YOU** - ASU President Jessie Salas receives a hug from Senator John Kerry after introducing him and Antonio Villaraigosa.



**FUTURE VOTERS** - During a sound system malfunction, Senator Kerry takes a moment to greet some very small supporters.



**VOTERS FACE OFF** - An Antonio Villaraigosa supporter gets into an argument with an incumbent Los Angeles Mayor Hahn supporter, forcing Valley College Officer Sutton to intervene.



**SU VOTO ES SU VOZ** - Sen. John Kerry and mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa address spanish speaking voters of Chanel 52 Telemundo.